

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (currently amended): A Global Cargo Container Information Clearinghouse (GCCIC), comprising:

a GCCIC system having a central information repository wherein information related to the transportation of goods is processed and stored, the repository, comprising:

a processor section including routines to operate the GCCIC,

a transaction section that tracks transportation of goods transactions, recorded in the GCCIC, and

a data section that records the information and provides an interface to users of the GCCIC; and

a set of rules for operation of the GCCIC, wherein one or more rules is acknowledged by a government agency.

Claim 2 (currently amended): The GCCIC system of claim 1, further comprising an interface to a mutual benefit association including commercial entities and government agencies, wherein the commercial entities propose the one or more rules to be acknowledged by the government agency, and wherein the commercial entities and the government agencies use the interface to provide information to the GCCIC system and receive information and products from the GCCIC system.

Claims 3 - 4 (Cancelled)

Claim 5 (currently amended): A Cargo Container Information Clearinghouse (GCCIC), comprising:

a non-profit association;

a set of rules for operation of the GCCIC system, wherein the set of rules for operation of the GCCIC system include rules specifying information to be maintained in ~~a the~~ central information repository, wherein information related to the transportation of goods is processed and stored in the repository;

GCCIC association members, comprising commercial entities and government agencies

involved in trade of goods across national borders;

a set of rules for governing the GCCIC association members, wherein one or more rules is acknowledged by a government agency;

an enforcement mechanism operable to enforce the set of rules for governing the GCCIC association members; and

a set of initiatives and programs that encourage membership in the GCCIC association.

Claims 6 - 7 (Cancelled)

Claim 8 (Original): A method for operation of a Cargo Container Information Clearinghouse (GCCIC), comprising:

providing a GCCIC system including a central information repository;

providing a set of rules for operating the GCCIC system;

forming a GCCIC association comprising commercial entities and government agencies as members;

proposing rules for governing the association;

receiving an indication that the proposed rules are acknowledged by a government agency;

providing incentives and programs for members of the association;

imposing fees on the organization; and

monitoring compliance with the adopted rules.

Claims 9 - 20 (Cancelled)